



Michigan Counseling Association  
PO Box 2287  
Southfield, Michigan 48037  
313-809-9326  
[www.michigancounselingassociation.com](http://www.michigancounselingassociation.com)

3-7-2013

### The Michigan Counseling Association Statement on SB136

The Michigan Counseling Association (MCA) is the organization that represents professional counselors who work with clients in public and private agencies, schools and colleges and private practice throughout the state of Michigan. MCA strongly opposes SB 136 because of the extremely damaging effects it will have on professional counselors, students who aspire to become counselors, and members of the public who need counseling services.

Students, Limited Licensed and Licensed Professional Counselors adhere to the ACA Code of Ethics, including:

#### C.5. Nondiscrimination

Counselors do not condone or engage in discrimination based on age, culture, disability, ethnicity, race, religion/spirituality, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status/partnership, language preference, socioeconomic status, or any basis proscribed by law. Counselors do not discriminate against clients, students, employees, supervisees, or research participants in a manner that has a negative impact on these persons.

If SB 136 is enacted it would authorize L/LPCs to discriminate in violation of the ACA Code of Ethics. Such a violation would constitute a violation of the Michigan Public Health Code for which L/LPCs license could be sanctioned. In addition, patients would be harmed by the discrimination allowed by this law.

The Michigan Counseling Association strongly opposes this legislation.

Christine A. Nace, M.Ed., LPC, NCC  
Michigan Counseling Association President